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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3516th meeting of the Security Council, held on 12 April 1995, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation concerning Western Sahara", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council notes the report of the Secretary-General dated 30 March 1995 (S/1995/240). It welcomes progress achieved so far in the identification and registration process, in particular the acceleration in the rate of identification, and emphasizes the need to continue that acceleration. It endorses the Secretary-General's goal of achieving a rate of at least 25,000 per month. However, the Council regrets that progress was not sufficient to enable the Secretary-General to recommend 1 June 1995 as the date for the commencement of the transitional period.

"The Security Council also notes with concern the delays resulting from the failure to ensure the continuous presence at the identification centres of the necessary sub-fraction representatives. It welcomes the agreement on a method for choosing alternative sub-fraction representatives when necessary and it expresses the hope that this will contribute to further acceleration of the process with a view to holding the referendum in January 1996. The Council supports the Secretary-General's call upon both parties to cooperate fully with the Identification Commission in the performance of its work, in particular by abandoning their insistence on strict reciprocity in the number of centres and on the linkage of a centre on one side with a specific centre on the other.

"The Security Council expresses its concern about the slow progress on the other aspects which are relevant to the fulfilment of the Settlement Plan and must be implemented before the referendum can take place. It calls upon both parties to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General, with his Deputy Special Representative, with the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), and to coordinate such cooperation to ensure prompt and full implementation of all aspects of the Settlement Plan.

"The Security Council hopes to see continuous and rapid progress by the time of the Secretary-General's next report in May 1995, which would enable it to consider favourably the possible extension of MINURSO's mandate."

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